

Message Text

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15

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 SY-10

NIC-01 RSR-01 /096 W

----- 059686

R 142214 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4308

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

USCINCSO

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: CI, AR, PINT, PINS

SUBJECT: PATRIA Y LIBERTAD ARRESTS

REF: SANTIAGO 2056

1. IN CONTEXT OF " INVASION" CHARGES AND THIEME CASE (REFTEL)
GOC ISSIED ORDERS TO ALL INTENDENTES OF CHILE' S 25 PROVINCES
TO STAGE MASS SEARCHES FOR ILLEGAL ARMS AND SEDITIOUS PERSONS.
RAIDS CONDUCTED MAY 11 AND 12 IN VALPARAISO, CONCEPCION, CHILLAN,
OSORNO, TEMUCO, AND VALDIVIA NETTED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF
AMMUNITION AND SOME WEAPONS, ACCORDING TO UNDERSECY INTERIOR
VERGARA. MANY PERSONS ARRESTED, SOME 50 IN VALPARAISO ALONE,
FOR ALLEGEDLY VIOLATING ARMS CONTROL AND INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS:
NEARLY ALL IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OR SYMPATHIZERS OF FAR- RIGHTIST
PATRIA Y LIBERTAD (P& L). VERGARA CLAIMED P& L WAS PLANNING A GOLPEAS
FIRST STEP TOWARD CIVIL WAR. NO RAIDS CONDUCTED IN SANTIAGO, SAID
VERGARA, SINCE NO SPECIFIC COMPLAINTS OF ILLEGAL ARMS HAD
BEEN RECEIVED. SOCIALIST AND COMMUNIST PARTIES ISSUED
SOLEMN STATEMENTS CALLING ON ALL CITIZENS TO AVOID CIVIL WAR
AND TO BE ALERT TO " FASCIST PROVOCATIONS." YOUTH WING OF
RADICAL PARTY, A MEMBER OF UP, PUBLICLY CALLED FOR OUTLAW
- ING P& L. P& L STATEMENT PROTESTED " UNPRECEDENTED GOVT
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REPRESSION" AGAINST ITS MEMBERS, CLAIMED IT WAS SMOKESCREEN TO
HIDE MAY 4 ATTACK ON P& L MEMBERS IN WHICH ONE DIED (SANTIAGO
1951), AND ANNOUNCED MEETING OF ITS NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR MAY 18.

2. SANTIAGO PRESS SIMULTANEOUSLY GAVE PROMINENT PLAY TO THIEME STATEMENTS TO BUENOS AIRES " LA PRENSA" IN WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY CALLED FOR VIOLENT OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE GOVT EVEN IF IT MEANS CIVIL WAR. CONSERVATIVE INDEPENDENT EL MERCURIO EDITORIALIZED THAT " THE POLITICAL EXTREMES HAVE MET" AND THAT THIEME' S STATEMENTS COULD AS EASILY HAVE COME FROM EXTREME LEFT.

3. COMMENT. RAIDS ARE CONSISTENT WITH UP CHARGES THAT MAJOR OPPOSITION PLOT IS BREWING. BY ITS STRIDENT PRONOUNCEMENTS AND THIEME' S PECULIAR BEHAVIRO, P& L HAS DISSIPATED SOME OF SYMPATHY VOICED PUBLICLY IN OPPOSITION CIRCLES IN WAKE OF MAY 4 SHOOTING. DAVIS

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